

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 NSC-10 NSCE-00 ACDA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 740

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T SAIGON 7192

LIMDIS

EO 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PINS MILI PINT VS

SUBJ: USG ENCOURAGEMENT OF GVN- PRG DISCUSSIONS IN THE FIELD

HEREWITH SAIGON MESSAGE 6994 TO AMCONSULS DANANG, BIEN HOA,
CAN THO, AND NHA TRANG REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO QUOTE

S E C R E T SAIGON 6994

LINDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: USG ENCOURAGEMENT OF GVN- PRG DISCUSSIONS IN THE FIELD

REF: NHA TRANG 0416

1. WE APPRECIATE FSO MUELLER' S THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION REFTEL.
WE AGREE THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARICLE 4 OF CEASEFIRE PROTOCOL
IS ESSENTIAL FIRST STEP TO A STABLE CEASEFIRE AND HAVE BEEN
DRAWING ON MUELLER' S EXCELLENT REPORTING OF GENERAL CAM' S
CONTACTS
WITH THE OTHER SIDE IN KONTUM IN INFORMAL POLICY DISCUSSIONS WITH
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SENIOR GVN STAFF OF TPJMC AND WITH CEASEFIRE PLANNER IN PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE.

2. IN CURRENT DISCUSSIONS REGARDING SITUATION AT TONG LE CHAN, GVN HAS RELAXED PREVIOUS INSISTENCE ON LIMITING CONTACTS TO CORPS/ DIVISION COMMANDERS BY PROPOSING THAT OFFICERS OF EQUAL GRADE (COLONEL) FROM GVN AND PRG DELEGATIONS TO TPJMC BACKSTOP MEETINGS OF LOCAL COMMANDERS. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE APPARENTLY CONTINUED TO INSIST ON MEETING BETWEEN RANGER MAJOR AT TONG LE CHAN AND REPRESENTATIVE OF BESIEGING FORCES. GVN POINTS OUT THAT MAJOR HAS NO CONTROL OVER ARTILLERY AND AIR ASSETS INVOLVED IN RVNAF DEFENSE OF OUTPOST AND THEREFORE DOES NOT HAVE COMPETENCE TO AGREE ON LOCAL CEASEFIRE. GVN SEES TONG LE CHAN AS TEST CASE OF PRG INTENTIONS.

3. WERE PRG TO DEPLOY JMC TEAMS TO REGIONS, GVN FORMULA WOULD APPEAR TO BE EASILY APPLICABLE TO ARRANGING MEETINGS AT VARIOUS COMMAND LEVELS. MEANWHILE GVN CONSIDERS LOCAL ARVN COMMANDERS HAVE INSUFFICIENT POLITICAL TRAINING TO BE ENTRUSTED WITH NEGOTIATING WITH SKILLED CADRE THEY EXPECT PRG WOULD SURFACE AS " FORCE COMMANDER" ON THE OTHER SIDE.

4. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE GVN TO MOVE AHEAD ON STABILIZING THE CEASEFIRE THROUGH ACCOMMODATION IN THE FIELD.

5. FOR ALL ADDEES: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE CONTINUED REPORTING ON LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS, AND ON AREAS WHERE STANDOFF BETWEEN FORCES OR EXPLORATORY CONTACTS MAY APPEAR TO OFFER GOOD PROSPECTS FOR ENCOURAGING GVN INITIATIVE.
BUNKER
UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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